

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 SCCT-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-10

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R 041400Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1302

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, SF

SUBJ: VIOLENCE ACCOMPANIES BUS BOYCOTT AT MDANTSANE TOWNSHIP
NEAR EAST LONDON

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1279

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, VIOLENCE WHICH ERUPTED DECEMBER 3
IN MDANTSANE IN CONNECTION WITH BUS BOYCOTT RESULTED IN SEVERAL
INJURIES AND ARRESTS.

2. CHAIRMAN OF MDANTSANE TOWNSHIP CLUNCIL, A.B. TOYANA EXPLAINED
THAT COUNCIL HAD UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED FARE INCREASES WHEN PROPOSED
& THAT PEOPLE WERE NOW SIMPLY MAKING IT CLEAR THEY NO LONGER WISHED
TO RELY ON MORE EXPENSIVE BUS SERVICE. TOLD THERE WAS TALK OF
POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND BOYCOTT HE SAID QTE NONSENSE. THIS IS
A SPONTANEOUS REACTION BY THE PEOPLE. UNQTE. ASKED HOW LONG HE
THOUGHT BOYCOTT WOULD LAST, HE SAID, QTE I THINK DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN THE BUS COMPANY OFFICIALS AND THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WOULD
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SERVE SOME PURPOSE. UNQTE.

3. COMMENT: BLACK LEADERS IN MDANTSANE APPEAR TO BE REACTING TO ARBITRARY TREATMENT IN SAME MANNER AS BLACK LEADERS IN SOWETO (REFTEL). ONE GETS IMPRESSION THEY ARE BECOMING STEADILY MORE AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT POWER THEY ARE IN POSITION TO WIELD AS MEANS OF FORCING WHITE POWER STRUCTURE TO DEAL SERIOUSLY AND BEFORE-THE-FACT WITH THEM IN MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE AND CONCERN TO URBAN BLACK COMMUNITIES.

GUTHRIE

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Disposition Event:
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